



**Government Affairs and Community  
Outreach Committee Meeting and Special  
Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Monday, April 06, 2026  
4:30 P.M.**

**Committee Members:**

Anthony R. Fellow, Chair  
Edward Chavez, Vice-Chair

\*The Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee meeting is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee may attend and participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to the Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee will not vote on matters before the Committee.

**Communications**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment

**Discussion/Action**

3. Legislative Update
  - a. Washington D.C.
  - b. Sacramento
4. State Bill Summaries and Positions *(Staff memorandum enclosed)*

**Oral Reports**

5. Update on AB 1894 (Rubio): Golden Mussels

**Other Matters**

- 6.

**Adjournment**

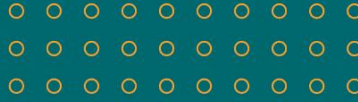
**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 03, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

**American Disabilities Act Compliance** (Government Code Section 54954.2(a))



To request special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District office at (626) 443-2297.





## Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

March 26, 2026

Ana Schwab, Lowry Crook, Michael Brain, Madeline Voitier, Chris Keosian, and Alex Dunn

### Congress

In recent weeks, party retreats and primary elections outside of Washington, D.C., have driven much of the activity surrounding Congress. As the upcoming midterm elections shape the broader political landscape, these events serve as an opportunity for party leaders and members of Congress to refine policy priorities and hone messaging.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) remains in a partial shutdown even as the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Appropriations process moves forward. However, congressional attention has recently focused on U.S. Military actions in the Middle East and President Trump's push for Senate action on controversial election legislation known as the SAVE America Act, including ending the centuries-old filibuster rule. These dynamics have created a strained legislative environment in Congress.

Against this backdrop, Congress is preparing to take up a full legislative agenda this year including consideration of annual appropriations bills, an Agriculture and Nutrition Policy Bill (Farm Bill), a Surface Transportation Re-authorization Bill (Highway Bill), National Security Authorizing Legislation (FISA Re-authorization), Housing Legislation, Permitting Reform Legislation, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and potentially other water, lands, and environmental authorization packages, as well as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Additionally, Republicans have begun discussing whether to pursue another budget reconciliation bill and what policy priorities it might include.

### House Subcommittee Examines Drinking Water Infrastructure and Affordability Challenges

On February 24, 2026, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing to discuss the financial, regulatory, and operational pressures facing drinking water systems across the country. Lawmakers and witnesses discussed aging infrastructure, affordability concerns, emerging contaminants including PFAS, implementation of federal funding programs, and the ability of water utilities to meet expanding regulatory requirements while maintaining reliable service.



The hearing featured testimony from Nicole Murley, Deputy Inspector General of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Erik Olson of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); Eric Hill on behalf of the National Rural Water Association (NRWA); and Lindsey Rehtin on behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA).

Opening statements reflected bipartisan agreement that drinking water infrastructure remains a major public health and economic issue, though members emphasized different priorities. Subcommittee Chair Gary Palmer (R-AL-06) highlighted the need for oversight of federal spending and pointed to recent infrastructure failures as examples of the risks posed by aging systems. Ranking Member Paul Tonko (D-NY-20) emphasized the ongoing need for federal investment to address infrastructure backlogs, cybersecurity risks, lead service line replacement, and emerging contaminants. Full Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02) discussed the upcoming expiration of certain drinking water authorities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) as an opportunity for Congress to review the effectiveness of existing programs, while Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06) called for expanding support through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and strengthening regulatory protections for contaminants such as PFAS.

Witness testimony highlighted both the scale of national drinking water needs and the practical challenges utilities face implementing federal programs. Deputy Inspector General Murley emphasized the importance of strong oversight as federal funding increases, warning that weak controls, poor data quality, and fraud risks could undermine program effectiveness. Olson argued that federal funding still covers only a fraction of national infrastructure needs and urged a broader regulatory approach to contaminants rather than addressing them individually. Hill focused on the operational challenges facing small and rural systems, noting that those utilities must comply with the same federal standards as large metropolitan systems but often lack the staff, administrative capacity, and ratepayer base to manage compliance costs. Rehtin emphasized the need for continued federal financing tools and raised concerns about potential liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) related to PFAS disposal.

During questioning, members explored several policy issues likely to shape future congressional debate. For example, lawmakers examined delays and administrative hurdles associated with federal funding programs, the impact of Build America Buy America requirements on project timelines, and the ability of smaller systems to comply with new PFAS standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Members also discussed the need for long-term infrastructure financing, potential changes to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, cybersecurity protections for



water systems, and whether utilities should face cleanup liability when contamination originates from other sources.

Congress continues to grapple with several core questions in federal drinking water policy, including how federal funding programs are reaching local systems, how to balance regulatory protections with affordability, and what additional federal support may be needed as existing infrastructure funding authorities begin to expire. These issues are expected to remain central to congressional oversight and potential legislative action on drinking water policy in the coming years.

### House Committee Hearing Reviews Data Center Infrastructure and AI Energy Demand

On February 24, 2026, the House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing to examine the growing energy and infrastructure demands associated with artificial intelligence (AI) and the rapid expansion of data centers. Lawmakers examined potential policy responses, including permitting reforms, energy supply challenges, and the broader economic and environmental impacts of large-scale data center development.

Opening statements highlighted emerging partisan differences over how quickly federal policy should move to support expanded AI-related infrastructure. Subcommittee Chair Rich McCormick (R-GA-07) emphasized the need to address permitting delays that could slow construction of data centers and associated energy infrastructure, arguing that current approval timelines may hinder U.S. competitiveness in the global AI race. He indicated that Congress may need to revisit federal permitting frameworks while maintaining environmental protections.

Ranking Member Emilia Sykes (D-OH-13) cautioned that the rapid expansion of data center infrastructure could raise electricity prices and create environmental and community impacts if not carefully managed. She urged policymakers to consider guardrails and conduct further research before approving large-scale infrastructure buildouts. Full Committee Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-18) similarly stressed the need for greater transparency from technology companies regarding data center energy and water use, noting that policymakers and communities currently lack consistent data to evaluate the full impacts of future development.

Witness testimony reflected a range of perspectives on the policy path forward. Paige Lambermont of the Competitive Enterprise Institute argued that regulatory barriers are a major factor contributing to power shortages and supported broad permitting reforms across several environmental statutes, including the National Environmental Policy Act



(NEPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Clean Air Act (CAA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA). Marsden Hanna of Google highlighted the importance of permitting and transmission reforms for maintaining U.S. leadership in AI development and expressed support for the SPEED Act, which would streamline environmental reviews under NEPA.

Meanwhile, Eric Masanet, Professor and Mellichamp Chair in Sustainability Science for Emerging Technologies at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at U.C. Santa Barbara, emphasized the need for improved federal data collection on data center electricity and water use, noting that policymakers currently face major information gaps that complicate planning and regulatory oversight.

During questioning, lawmakers examined whether co-locating data centers with new energy generation could reduce strain on the grid, how overlapping federal and state permitting processes affect project timelines, and whether more transparent reporting on energy and water use could help policymakers better understand the broader impacts of data center expansion.

Growing congressional attention to the infrastructure demands created by AI development has revealed significant policy disagreements about how aggressively the federal government should pursue permitting reforms and energy infrastructure expansion. These debates are likely to continue as lawmakers consider legislation addressing data center siting, energy supply, permitting reform, and regulatory oversight in the months ahead.

### **House and Senate Examine Priorities for the Water Resources Development Act of 2026**

In late February, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held oversight hearings examining Administration priorities and Congressional concerns ahead of the next Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA 2026). The hearings offered an early look at how lawmakers may begin shaping the next biennial water infrastructure bill and highlighted several recurring issues, including project delivery delays, slow implementation of prior WRDA provisions, affordability for non-federal sponsors, and the growing backlog of authorized projects at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

Both Committees heard testimony from Adam R. Telle, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and William H. Graham Jr., Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the Army Corps. Assistant Secretary Telle emphasized the Administration's efforts to accelerate infrastructure delivery by reducing process burdens and refocusing the Army Corps on project execution rather than administrative paperwork, known as the "Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork" initiative that was first announced on February 23, 2026.



Members from both parties reiterated support for the bipartisan WRDA process, but expressed frustration with the pace of implementation for recently enacted provisions and the large backlog of authorized projects awaiting completion. Lawmakers also raised concerns about project affordability for local sponsors, coordination with state and local partners, communication with Congress, and the need for greater transparency and predictability in project timelines. Flood risk management, navigation infrastructure, permitting clarity, and improved forecasting tools for water supply and drought preparedness were also discussed as likely priorities in WRDA 2026.

California water infrastructure projects received particular attention during the hearings. In the House, Rep. Kevin Kiley (Ind.-CA-03) highlighted the importance of federal support for water storage projects in the state and referenced funding included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that he hopes will support projects such as Shasta Dam and Sites Reservoir. John Garamendi (D-CA-08) also asked about the status of the Corps' review of the state's Clean Water Act permit request for the Delta Conveyance Project, which Corps leadership said remains under evaluation.

During the Senate hearing, California senators pressed Corps leadership more directly on the status of several major projects and broader concerns about federal decision-making affecting the state. Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) argued that the Corps' process for funding and implementing projects in California is "fundamentally broken," citing the removal of more than \$126 million from California projects in the Corps' FY2025 work plan and raising questions about an earlier pause affecting billions of dollars in Corps funding. Padilla also highlighted uncertainty surrounding several projects, including the San Francisco Waterfront Coastal Flood Study and a recycled water pipeline in Los Angeles County. Corps' leadership responded that the San Francisco project may need to be broken into smaller phases to improve cost accuracy and project delivery.

Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA) also raised concerns about the cancellation of several flood control projects in California and questioned whether political considerations played a role. Lt. Gen. Graham responded that the affected projects involved carryover funding that had not yet been obligated and indicated that those funds would be used this year. Schiff also pressed the witnesses on delays in advancing the Los Angeles River ecosystem restoration project, despite earlier commitments to complete a required report in time for WRDA 2026—a concern also raised by Rep. Laura Friedman (D-CA-30) during the House hearing. Graham acknowledged that the Corps would miss that timeline, citing challenges including rising real estate costs and difficulties assembling a viable project plan.



Overall, the hearings reinforced bipartisan interest in advancing WRDA 2026, while highlighting ongoing congressional frustration with implementation delays, project delivery timelines, and communication between the Corps and Congress.

### House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Examines Brownfields Reauthorization and Infrastructure Priorities

On March 4, 2026, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing focused on competing draft legislative proposals to reauthorize and update the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program. Members and witnesses discussed whether reforms should prioritize expanding funding and community redevelopment grants or broaden eligibility to accelerate large-scale infrastructure and private-sector projects.

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL-06) discussed several Republican draft bills that would expand grant eligibility, raise award limits, and prioritize redevelopment projects considered “nationally significant infrastructure,” including facilities tied to artificial intelligence, critical minerals, power generation, and semiconductor manufacturing. Republican members emphasized the potential for brownfield redevelopment to accelerate economic development, attract private investment, and repurpose underutilized industrial sites.

Democratic members, led by Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20) and Full Committee Ranking Member Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06), supported reauthorizing the program but raised concerns that the majority’s proposals could shift limited funding away from community-led redevelopment toward large corporate projects. Democrats instead promoted their proposal, which would significantly increase program funding and waive cost-sharing requirements for disadvantaged communities.

Witness testimony reflected similar divisions. Chris Wells of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality supported reauthorization and modest program expansions, emphasizing the program’s role in leveraging private investment and supporting rural communities. Gerald Pouncey of Taft Stettinius & Hollister encouraged policies that would strengthen private-sector participation and streamline permitting. In contrast, Alan Tomson, Mayor of Davis, West Virginia, warned that prioritizing large infrastructure projects could divert resources from local governments that rely on federal brownfield grants for site cleanup and redevelopment.

Representing industry, David Robinson of Aligned Data Centers highlighted the growing interest in redeveloping brownfield sites for data centers, noting that these locations often



provide existing access to power, water, and transportation infrastructure. However, several members questioned whether large infrastructure developers should receive federal brownfields funding given limited program resources.

The hearing underscored ongoing bipartisan support for the Brownfields Program but also highlighted unresolved disagreements over funding levels, eligibility for private companies, and proposals to streamline permitting—particularly exemptions from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for certain infrastructure projects. Congress last formally reauthorized the program in 2018, though funding currently continues through fiscal year 2026 under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

### **Senate Permitting Reform Negotiations Re-Start After Months-long Delay**

Congressional negotiations over federal permitting reform resumed earlier this month, after a lengthy pause triggered by Senators’ disputes over the Trump Administration’s attempted cancelation of previously approved renewable energy projects. Senate talks had been underway for several years as lawmakers sought to streamline the federal approval process for energy and infrastructure projects, building on limited permitting provisions included in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. However, negotiations stalled in December 2025 after the Department of the Interior issued stop-work orders for five offshore wind projects. Democratic negotiators, led by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), withdrew from formal discussions in protest, arguing the Administration was targeting renewable energy development.

However, momentum began to return in this month after federal courts blocked the stop-work orders and the Interior Department resumed processing permits for certain solar and onshore wind projects. On March 5, 2026, Whitehouse indicated that negotiations were likely to restart, and by the next day Democrats formally rejoined the talks. Lawmakers from both parties emphasized the broad interest in modernizing the federal permitting system to accelerate construction of energy, transportation, and water infrastructure projects. Democratic negotiators warned that further Administration actions against renewable projects could again jeopardize the talks.

The White House has also increased its involvement in the negotiations in recent weeks. Administration officials, including the President’s legislative affairs team and the National Energy Dominance Council, have engaged more directly with Congressional negotiators as energy affordability and electricity demand become more prominent policy concerns.

While no legislative text has been released, lawmakers say discussions are focusing on measures to accelerate environmental reviews, limit certain legal challenges, and provide

greater certainty for both fossil fuel and renewable energy projects, in addition to other forms of infrastructure. Negotiators have suggested that a bipartisan framework could emerge in the coming weeks, although the timeline remains uncertain given the constraints of a midterm election year. As a result, any final permitting package may ultimately need to move as part of a broader must-pass legislative vehicle if Congress hopes to enact reforms in 2026.

### House Agriculture Committee Advances Farm Bill Reauthorization

On March 5, 2026, the House Agriculture Committee voted 34–17 to advance its latest Farm Bill reauthorization proposal H.R. 7567, the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*—marking the first major step toward a full reauthorization since 2018. While the legislation has not yet been enacted, its advancement out of Committee indicates how House Republicans, along with a small group of Democrats, currently align on key policies related to agricultural, nutrition, energy, forestry, and rural development.

The bill, introduced by Committee Chair Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15), would reauthorize major Farm Bill programs through fiscal year 2031 and largely mirrors legislation the Committee advanced in 2024. Seven Democrats joined all Committee Republicans in supporting the bill, including Jim Costa (D-CA-21) and Adam Gray (D-CA-13), while Committee Ranking Member Angie Craig (D-MN-02) opposed the legislation.

The Committee markup included bipartisan support for several amendments but also significant debate over provisions that would preempt certain state laws regulating pesticide labeling and livestock production practices. Democrats unsuccessfully offered amendments to remove the federal preemption language and to reverse nutrition program changes adopted through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. An additional amendment to authorize year-round sales of E-15 ethanol was ruled out of order by Republicans on jurisdictional grounds.

The legislation proposes updates across several major Farm Bill titles. Within the conservation title, the bill would create a new Forest Conservation Easement Program to support voluntary easements on private forestland and establish federal matching grants for state and Tribal soil health programs. The bill also maintains funding and authorities for existing conservation programs.

In the nutrition title, the legislation includes provisions aimed at strengthening oversight and administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), including greater reporting requirements on payment errors and administrative costs. The bill would also provide temporary staffing flexibility for state agencies administering SNAP during



emergencies or staffing shortages and prioritize domestically produced foods in federally-supported school meal programs.

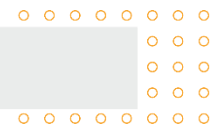
The rural development title reauthorizes several infrastructure and community programs administered by USDA, including broadband deployment, water infrastructure grants, and telemedicine programs. The bill would formally incorporate the ReConnect broadband program into statute, establish a new Innovative Broadband Advancement Program to support emerging broadband technologies, and reauthorize water infrastructure assistance programs for rural communities and Alaska Native villages.

The forestry title includes provisions intended to support active forest management and wildfire mitigation, including extending stewardship contract authorities and modernizing the Forest Inventory and Analysis program.

Finally, the energy title proposes several changes aimed at supporting rural renewable energy development and biofuel production. These include expanding eligibility for sustainable aviation fuel under federal bioenergy programs, extending funding for advanced biofuel payments, and directing USDA and the U.S. Department of Energy to study the impacts of agrivoltaic systems on farmland and natural resources.

Although the Committee vote represents a significant milestone in the Farm Bill reauthorization process, the path forward remains uncertain. House Republican leaders have expressed interest in advancing the bill to the floor, but opposition from Democratic leadership over nutrition policy changes and other provisions could complicate passage.

## Federal Budget/Appropriations



### DHS Shutdown Enters Second Month

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is entering its second month of a shutdown after Congress failed to reach a bipartisan agreement on its FY2026 funding bill on February 14, 2026. The lapse has disrupted operations across multiple DHS departments including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). As the shutdown continues, the operational and workforce impacts are becoming increasingly pronounced. Notably, the shutdown persists amid a



transition in leadership as Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem was removed from her position earlier this month (more detail provided in subsequent section).

FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund is reported to be quickly diminishing and could be depleted within months without Congressional action. Roughly 120,000 DHS employees continue to work without pay; including about 20,000 FEMA staff, nearly 900 CISA personnel, and approximately 42,000 TSA officers. TSA employees recently missed their first full paycheck, which has contributed to rising attrition, with more than 300 officers reportedly leaving the agency since the shutdown began. On Monday, March 23, President Trump deployed ICE agents to certain airports experiencing heightened delays to assist TSA as it deals with staff shortages amid the shutdown.

At the center of the political impasse is a dispute over immigration enforcement authorities, particularly changes involving how ICE Agents are allowed to operate. While the White House and Democratic lawmakers have exchanged several proposals, no agreement has emerged. Senate Republicans have begun outlining elements of the Administration's latest offer, which would modify the previously negotiated DHS funding bill. The proposal includes additional funding for body cameras and other provisions that appropriators say build on earlier bipartisan work. Republicans have also indicated that the White House is open to adjusting certain warrant requirements, though details remain undisclosed.

Democrats argue that the core issues remain unresolved. They continue to push for judicial warrant requirements for home entries and restrictions on agents wearing masks to conceal their identities—provisions Republicans have rejected. Senate Democrats' attempts to pass standalone funding bills for TSA, CISA, the Coast Guard, and FEMA were blocked by Republicans, who in turn saw Democrats block a short-term extension to keep DHS funded through late March. The prolonged stalemate underscores a widening policy divide, with ongoing discussions yielding little progress as the shutdown approaches the third-longest in U.S. history.

This week, Senate Republicans and the White House are coalescing around a framework deal to reopen DHS by funding most agency operations while temporarily excluding ICE enforcement and deportation activities. The plan is to address those excluded operations through a separate reconciliation bill, potentially including elements of the Save America Act—President Trump's top legislative priority. Despite initial optimism following renewed engagement with President Trump, the approach faces significant resistance within the Republican conference, with both conservative and moderate lawmakers questioning the viability of using reconciliation for election policy and opposing any funding measure that omits ICE enforcement. Meanwhile, Democrats are continuing to push for stronger ICE reforms. With key policy disputes unresolved and intra-party divisions emerging, the path



forward remains uncertain and likely hinges on direct engagement from President Trump and the ability to secure sufficient support in both chambers before the upcoming Easter recess.

With operational consequences deepening across the department, pressure is mounting on Congress to break the impasse and restore full DHS operations.

### FY27 Community Project Funding Process Underway

On February 25, 2026, the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations formally released its official guidance for the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Community Project Funding (CPF) process—also known as “earmarks.” In the U.S. Senate, the same process is called Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS).

To receive federal funding, these project requests must be submitted by members of Congress, included in an FY27 appropriations bill approved by the relevant Appropriations Committees, passed by both the House and Senate chambers, and signed into law by the President.

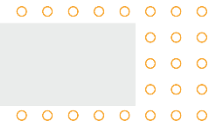
BBK has worked in consultation with Upper Water’s staff to identify projects suitable for CPF/CDS funding and submitted the following application:

- **Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District – Water Supply Connection**  
**Project:** Submitted to Senators Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Adam Schiff (D-CA), and Representative Gil Cisneros (D-CA-31).

In the U.S. House of Representatives, members had to submit the Appropriations Committee a list of up to 20 projects for consideration by March 20, 2026. Submission by a member is the first step in the FY27 CDS/CPF process.



Administration/Agency



**Interior Issues Final Rule Revising NEPA Implementation Regulations**

On February 23, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued a final rule revising its regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). According to the Department, the rule rescinds more than 80% of its existing NEPA-related regulations and transfers many procedural details to a streamlined departmental handbook. The agency stated that the change is intended to simplify environmental review processes, reduce administrative requirements, and accelerate approvals for energy, infrastructure, and conservation projects.

Interior officials stated that the rule is intended to be consistent with their interpretation of Congress' original intent that NEPA serve as a procedural statute which informs agency decision-making, rather than functioning as an extensive regulatory framework. The rule also introduces provisions to clarify the designation of lead agencies and formalize participation by federal, state, local, and tribal entities with relevant expertise during environmental reviews.

Notably, the revisions modify certain public participation requirements. Public comment will continue to be required when an agency initiates an environmental impact statement, but agencies will no longer be required to publish a notice in the Federal Register when beginning a less detailed environmental assessment.

The rule follows a broader policy shift by the White House to scale back long-standing NEPA implementation regulations previously issued by the Council on Environmental Quality beginning in 1977.

Legal analysts and environmental organizations have raised concerns that the rule could limit opportunities for public engagement and environmental analysis during project reviews. Some groups have already challenged earlier versions of the policy in federal court, arguing that the changes may conflict with federal law.



## EPA Advances Several PFAS Regulatory Developments in February

During the month of February, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advanced a series of actions that together signal a recalibration of federal oversight of PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals.” These steps revise parts of the Biden Administration’s 2024 drinking water rule, while continuing to expand federal chemical reporting requirements.

On February 24, 2026, EPA submitted two proposed rules to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. One proposal would extend the compliance deadline for public water systems to meet drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS from 2029 to 2031, citing cost and implementation challenges raised by water utilities. The second proposal would rescind regulatory determinations and associated drinking water limits for four additional PFAS—GenX, PFNA, PFHxS, and PFBS—which EPA now says were designated without fully meeting procedural requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

These proposed changes are unfolding amid ongoing litigation over the 2024 PFAS rule. EPA has asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to separate and pause challenges related to the PFAS targeted for rescission, arguing that the new rulemaking could affect the outcome of the case. The effort is complicated by SDWA provisions that generally prohibit weakening existing drinking water protections—also known as the “anti-backsliding” rule. States and water utilities have warned that regulatory delays and uncertainty make long-term compliance planning more difficult.

At the same time, EPA has continued to expand transparency requirements for PFAS discharges. Additionally, on February 23, 2026, the agency finalized a rule adding sodium perfluorohexanesulfonate (PFHxS-Na) to the Toxics Release Inventory. The first reporting period began January 1, 2026 and the first reports are due to EPA by July 1, 2027. EPA has emphasized that expanded reporting is intended to improve public access to information about PFAS use and releases.

Additionally, EPA also sent its Interim Guidance for PFAS Destruction and Disposal; Version III to OMB for review on March 3, 2026.

## White House Announces DHS Leadership Shift, Senate Confirms New Secretary

On March 5, 2026, President Donald Trump announced that he would replace U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and nominate Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) to lead the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Noem is expected to move to a new role as Special Envoy for the “Shield of the Americas,” a Western Hemisphere security initiative.

Criticism of Secretary Noem’s leadership had been building for months. Scrutiny intensified following the January 2026 fatal shooting of two U.S. citizens by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis, as well as questions about DHS spending on a controversial government advertising campaign costing approximately \$200 million.

On March 23, 2026, the Senate confirmed Sen. Mullin—a close ally of the President—to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security in a 54-45 vote, largely along party lines. Mullin will now assume leadership of the Department amid an ongoing shutdown and broader operational challenges.

## USFS Roadless Rule Repeal Advances to White House OMB for Review

The Trump Administration’s effort to rescind federal logging limits in National Forest Roadless Areas advanced on March 6, 2026, when the proposed rule was formally submitted to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. The proposal would roll back the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which restricts road construction and timber harvesting on roughly 59 million acres of National Forest land—about 30% of the National Forest System. Under the Administration’s proposal, those restrictions would be removed from about 44 million acres.

Administration officials describe the repeal as part of a broader strategy to increase domestic timber production and reduce reliance on imported wood products. They also argue that expanded tree removal in currently restricted areas could help reduce wildfire risks by altering forest fuel conditions. Submission to OMB marks a required step before the proposal can be released for public comment and later finalized.

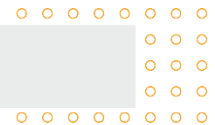
The Forest Service reported receiving more than 625,000 public comments during its August–September 2025 notice of intent to pursue the repeal. Stakeholder responses remain sharply divided. Environmental organizations widely oppose rescinding the rule, citing concerns about long-term ecological impacts and the loss of protections for undeveloped forest areas. Timber industry groups and some recreation-sector organizations support the change, contending that the 2001 rule imposes a uniform



management framework that limits flexibility across diverse forest landscapes. Supporters also emphasize that public recreation access should remain a priority alongside other forest uses.

In the background document issued by the Forest Service justifying the repeal, the agency referenced a statistic that 60% of the Roadless Areas in California have “a high or very-high wildfire hazard potential.” Additionally, roughly 35% of Inventoried Roadless Areas, or 10.2 million acres, fall within an area known as the wildland-urban interface—while another 4.8 million acres within one mile of it. In Southern California, significant portions of the Angels N.F., San Bernardino N.F., and Cleveland N.F. are currently designated as Inventoried Roadless Areas.

## Judicial/Courts



### EPA Seeks To Sever Hazard Index PFAS Litigation, Court Denies Motion

On February 19, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to sever and stay challenges to the portions of its 2024 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) rule regulating four “Hazard Index” PFAS. The agency argues that its pending proposal to eliminate the Hazard Index PFAS regulatory determinations and associated maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) will rescind those standards and moot the case.

The request follows a January 2026 denial by a D.C. Circuit motions panel of EPA’s motion to vacate the Hazard Index PFAS provisions, leaving the case to proceed on the merits. In the lawsuit, *American Water Works Association (AWWA), et al. v. EPA*, industry groups and water utilities are challenging the full rule. While EPA continues to defend the PFOA and PFOS limits, it now agrees with industry challengers that it erred procedurally in setting standards for the four Hazard Index PFAS—GenX chemicals, PFNA, PFHxS, and a novel Hazard Index limit for mixtures of any of these three plus PFBS.

Subsequent court filings indicate broad opposition to EPA’s motion from parties on both sides of the litigation. Water utilities argue that further delay would prolong regulatory uncertainty and compliance planning, while environmental interveners contend that the Hazard Index PFAS provisions are legally and technically intertwined with the rest of the rule and therefore cannot be cleanly separated for litigation.



Meanwhile, on February 24, 2026, EPA sent two proposed PFAS rules to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. These proposals would revise the 2024 PFAS drinking water standards by extending the compliance deadline for PFOA and PFOS from 2029 to 2031 and rescinding regulatory determinations and limits for the four Hazard Index PFAS. EPA has indicated it believes the Biden-era limits for those four Hazard Index PFAS were promulgated without required procedural steps under the SDWA. The OMB review, which typically lasts up to 90 days, delays final action and adds uncertainty for states and water systems regarding which standards and compliance timelines will ultimately apply.

EPA argued that no party would be materially harmed given that key compliance deadlines—such as initial monitoring requirements—do not take effect until 2027. In a March 11, 2026 reply brief in support of severing and staying, the agency reiterated its position, and pushed back against the opposition’s arguments. The Court denied EPA’s motion to sever and stay the litigation on March 19, 2026.

The litigation is ongoing.



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# Aaron Read & Associates, LLC

Item 3. (b)  
LEGISLATIVE AND

GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATION

Date: April 1, 2026

To: Government Affairs and Community Outreach Committee, Upper San Gabriel Valley  
Municipal Water District

Re: Legislative Update

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## LEGISLATION

We are in the second year of a two-year session. Legislators who were once unlimited in the number of bills they could introduce are now restricted to 35.

There have been almost 2,000 bills introduced this year alone. In addition, there were 373 two-year bills carried over from last year.

These are the bills getting immediate attention.

## WATER LEGISLATION

### **AB 35 (Alvarez) - Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act - **SUPPORT****

- The bill would provide an Administrative Procedures Act exemption for the three recent climate bonds, such as Prop 4. This exemption will allow state agencies to deliver funding for critical investments and maximize the impact of bond funds.
- Passed through Assembly with no opposition.
- Currently in Senate Rules, expected to go to **Senate Natural Resources Committee**

### **AB 1894 (Rubio) - Golden Mussel - **SUPPORT****

- This bill mandates that the state has sole regulatory authority over invasive mussels, preventing cities, counties, or other local agencies from independently creating or enforcing their own rules on the matter, unless explicitly permitted by the state. This bill addresses broader statewide concerns rather than local municipal issues, thus applying to all regions including charter cities and counties.
- Will be heard in **Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee** 4/14/26.

### **AB 2215 (Calderon) – Urban Water Management Planning - **SUPPORT****

- This bill discusses the regulation of the State Water Project operated by the Department of Water Resources. Current laws mandate that projects must begin and progress diligently, using allocated water beneficially within a set timeframe, as specified in water right permits. The State Water Resources Control Board can extend these deadlines for valid reasons. This bill proposes setting the deadline for water application and construction completion for certain water right permits associated with the State Water Project to December 31, 2085.
- Assigned to **Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee**.

**SB 872 (McNerney) - Climate Change: Funding Priorities - SUPPORT**

- SB 872 appropriates the following amounts of greenhouse gas reduction fund (GGRF) annually over 20 years to ensure water reliability for years to come:
  - \$150 million annually to the Delta Conservancy for levee improvements.
  - \$150 million annually to DWR for subsidence repair along SWP canals.
- Passed out of **Senate Environmental Quality Committee** on (5 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain) vote.
- Scheduled for **Senate Natural Resources Committee** on 4/7/26.

**SB 1001 (Archuleta) - Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable - SUPPORT**

- It would create a voluntary, statewide credentialing framework, administered by CalOES, for identification cards for essential water utility workers.
  - The bill is sponsored by Walnut Valley Water District, Rowland Water District and supported by San Gabriel Valley Water Association.
- Passed out of **Senate Emergency Management Committee** on a (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain) vote.
- Scheduled for **Senate Public Safety Committee** on 4/14/26.

**SB 1153 (Caballero) - Disaster preparedness: urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: wildfire - SUPPORT**

- The bill would require all public water systems, as defined, with 10,000 or more service connections to review and revise their disaster preparedness plans in conjunction with related agencies. It aims to improve public safety while providing an opportunity for water agencies to secure wildfire liability protections in statute.
- Passed out of **Senate Emergency Management Committee** on a (8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain) vote.
- Scheduled for **Senate Natural Resources And Water Committee** on 4/14/26.

**Delta Conveyance:**

- While there is no official legislation, the skinny is that the Governor is continuing to push for legislation to be introduced.

**GOVERNOR'S RACE**

March 6<sup>th</sup> was the deadline to file for the June ballot.

We have ten candidates running for Governor. If you look at them individually, they all have extraordinary resumes but who many voters are not familiar with – resulting in no one initially separating themselves from the rest of the pack.

A new Emerson College Polling/Inside California Politics survey of the June primary for Governor finds Congressman Eric Swalwell leading the open primary with 17%, followed by Steve Hilton (13%), Tom Steyer (11%), Chad Bianco (11%), and Katie Porter (8%). A quarter of voters, 25%, are undecided.

If this poll is an accurate representation, Congressman Eric Swalwell seems to have separated himself as the top Dem. However, things are liable to change especially given the fact that FBI

Director Kash Patel is reportedly seeking to release files related to Swalwell’s previous association with a suspected Chinese spy.




It is conceivably that with the large number of Democrats running in the election, fractioning off the base, two Republicans might hold the top spots. Should that happen it’s almost certain that a recall initiative will be circulating within the first 24 hours.

To avoid such a public debacle, Governor Newsom has privately and publicly urged Democrat candidates with no viable path towards victory to pull out.

Only one Democrat, Ian Calderon - polling at less than 1% - agreed. He abandoned his effort and has endorsed Eric Swalwell.

Below is a full breakdown of the ten candidates running for Governor.

### California Governor Candidates (2026)

Steve Hilton-REP	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fox News commentator.</li> <li>• Former adviser to U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron.</li> <li>• New polling has him as the top Republican.</li> </ul>
Chad Bianco-REP	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverside County Sheriff.</li> <li>• Leading Republican.</li> <li>• He was an ace law enforcement officer and has a strong base following.</li> <li>• Running just behind Hilton.</li> <li>• He splits the Republican base.</li> <li>• Made headlines by investigating alleged voter fraud – Sued by Attorney General Rob Bonta</li> </ul>
Eric Swalwell-DEM	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former 2020 presidential candidate.</li> <li>• U.S. Representative from the East Bay.</li> <li>• Former prosecutor.</li> <li>• Led second Trump impeachment.</li> <li>• Big money supporters.</li> <li>• Solid reputation: Most odds makers have him as the top Democrat.</li> <li>• FBI Director reportedly seeking to release files related to Swalwell’s previous association with a suspected Chinese spy.</li> </ul>

### Tom Steyer-DEM



- He spits and gold coins fly out.
- Former 2020 presidential candidate.
- Billionaire investor (founded San Francisco hedge fund) and climate activist.
- Heavy television ads already. They are making a difference. Although not dramatic.
- His numbers are trending upward.

### Katie Porter-DEM



- Former U.S. Representative from Orange County.
- Former law professor at UC Irvine.
- Polling dropped after 4-year old video of her yelling at a staff member was leaked.
- Resilient Candidate – Bouncing back with sound policy views and will to engage.

### Matt Mahan-DEM



- Mayor of San Jose.
- Silicon Valley tech entrepreneur.
- Running as a moderate Democrat.
- Smart and appealing – May have started too late.

### Antonio Villaraigosa-DEM



- Former Mayor of Los Angeles.
- Former Assembly Speaker.
- Ran for Governor unsuccessfully in 2018.
- Strong leadership record.
- Doesn't seem to be picking up steam.

### Xavier Becerra-DEM



- Former California Attorney General (California's first Latino AG).
- Former U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services.
- Dormant campaign account linked to alleged corruption scandal, not accused of wrongdoing.
- Impressive resume both statewide and national.

Betty Yee-DEM



- Former California State Controller.
- Top finance advisor in ex-Gov. Gray Davis' administration.
- Sat on State Board of Equalization.
- Well-liked and very smart. No one works harder – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest votes at the Dem Convention
- Would not be surprised if she shifted to another elected office.

Tony Thurmond-DEM



- California Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Steady and has excelled in previous positions.
- Would be an excellent Governor. Not enough money or contributors to cause traction.

*\*Ian Calderon-Dem dropped out and has formally endorsed Eric Swalwell*

We are two months away from absentee ballots and have no idea who will win.

**YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

**State Assembly District 41**

**Assemblymember John Harabedian-DEM**



Chair of Assembly Select Committee on Housing Finance and Affordability

Chair of Joint Legislative Audit

**State Senate District 25**

**Senator Sasha Renée Pérez-DEM**



Chair of Senate Education Committee



**State Assembly District 48**

**Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio-DEM**



Chair of Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization

Chair of Assembly Select Committee on Domestic Violence

**State Senate District 22**

**Senator Susan Rubio-DEM**



Chair of Senate Committee on Governmental Organization

Both Rubio sisters have hit their strides as Legislators and have expanded their influence with water issues.

**State Assembly District 49**

**Assemblymember Mike Fong-DEM**



Chair of Assembly Higher Education Committee

Chair of Assembly Select Committee on Effective Postsecondary Career Technical Education and Workforce Development Programs

**State Assembly District 56**

**Assemblymember Lisa Calderon-DEM**



Chair of Assembly Insurance Committee

**State Senate District 30**

**Senator Bob Archuleta-DEM**



Chair of Senate Military and Veterans Affairs

## MEMORANDUM

### Item 4

**Date:** April 6, 2026  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** General Manager  
**Subject:** State Bill Summaries and Positions

### Recommendation

Approve staff recommendations for the following state bills: AB 1772, AB 1893, AB 2032, AB 2568, AB 2619 and AB 2739 which are consistent with Upper Water's 2025-26 Legislative Policy Principles adopted by the Board in January 2026.

### State Bill Analysis

#### **AB 1772 (Papan): Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels**

**Coauthors:** Rhodesia Ransom, Blanca Rubio

**Location:** Asm Water, Parks and Wildlife; **Last Amended:** March 23, 2026

**Summary:** Existing law requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to prepare for and implement the control or eradication of any infestation that may occur. Existing law requires, on or before December 31, 2026, CDFW to review all approved plans pursuant to the subdivision and require all plans that do not specifically address all invasive mussel species known to be present in bodies of water in the state as of January 1, 2026, to be updated or revised no later than September 30, 2027.

This bill would require CDFW, in consultation with the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Food and Agriculture, to develop a voluntary framework to prevent the overland spread of invasive mussels via watercraft. The framework would set minimum standards for inspection, decontamination, and quarantine, establish a statewide database to track vessel and equipment movement, and create a reciprocity system recognizing prior decontamination certifications. It would also include training, education, outreach, and alternative funding to help waterbody managers reduce golden mussel impacts and encourage compliance.

**Analysis:** The bill is a follow-up to last year's budget trailer bill, AB 149, and aims to address challenges facing recreational boating and water management communities in the prevention and decontamination of golden mussels by creating a standardized framework, developing a reciprocity system, and, to the extent feasible, identifying and implementing alternative and equitable funding sources. The bill also revises the definition of "invasive mussel" to be any nonnative biofouling mussel species that can spread in freshwater and is listed in a regulation adopted by the Fish and Game Commission.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Support

#### **AB 1893 (Gallagher): Wildfire prevention: local assistance grant program: eligible activities.**

**Location:** Asm Emergency Management; **Introduced:** February 12, 2026

**Summary:** This bill would expand the list of eligible activities under CalFIRE's local assistance grant program to include projects undertaken by a local governmental entity involving the acquisition or installation of mobile rigid dip tanks or similar mobile and permanent infrastructure that is capable of providing helicopter-accessible water supplies for firefighting response or suppression purposes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, as provided. The bill is sponsored by sponsored by ACWA members, Crescenta Valley Water District and Paradise Irrigation District.

**Analysis:** AB 1893 would ensure investments by public water agencies through grant opportunities in helicopter-accessible water supply infrastructure for wildfire response and suppression, strengthening local firefighting capabilities without imposing new mandates or additional spending.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** SUPPORT

**AB 2032 (Ransom): Fish and wildlife: golden mussels**

**Location:** Asm Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials; **Last Amended:** March 19, 2026

**Summary:** The bill would require CDFW's Golden Mussel Task Force, through its Invasive Species Program, to develop by April 1, 2027, best management practices for public and private water agencies to control the spread of golden mussels until formal control plans can be developed and approved. The bill also directs the Task Force to establish guidance for scientific research on golden mussel prevention, control, and eradication, including a streamlined process for agencies to propose research projects and receive recommendations for minimizing impacts. Additionally, the bill would require the Department of Pesticide Regulation to expedite the evaluation of chemical treatments for golden mussels and the State Water Board to accelerate the review of NPDES permits or permit modifications submitted by water agencies for golden mussel control, to the extent allowed under state and federal law.

**Analysis:** The bill would initiate clear best management practices and scientific guidance, expedite approvals of new chemical treatments, and expedite the NPDES permitting process, which would support the necessary rapid response to prevent serious impacts of golden mussels on water infrastructure, water supply systems, and water bodies.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** SUPPORT

**AB 2568 (Johnson): Water district directors: compensation**

**Location:** Asm Local Government; **Last Amended:** March 10, 2026

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes the governing board of a water district to compensate members for attending meetings or completing services rendered on behalf of the board. Law allows the board to adopt an ordinance to increase the compensation of board members but prohibits the increase from exceeding an amount equal to 5% of the compensation received and prohibits an ordinance from authorizing compensation for more than 10 days a month. This bill was introduced to authorize a water district to adopt an ordinance that compensates members of the board for up to 20 days in a calendar month.

**Analysis:** This bill was amended to prohibit a water district from adopting an ordinance that compensates members of the board for more than 15 days in a calendar month. The bill is sponsored by the West Valley Water District.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** WATCH

**AB 2619 (Papan): Water resources: data center**

**Location:** Asm Water, Parks and Wildlife; **Introduced:** February 20, 2026

**Summary:** AB 2619 is an updated version of AB 93 last year, seeking to expand data center requirements, such as the type of information submitted when applying for a business license. This bill would require DWR, in coordination with other relevant state agencies, on or before January 1, 2029, to develop guidance that cities and counties may use for assessing projected water use, water efficiency measures, and cumulative water resource impacts of proposed data centers within the context of local and regional water management objectives. This bill would require every urban water supplier to include data center demand when evaluating their water supply reliability as part of their water shortage contingency plan within their urban water management plan. The bill would also require an urban water supplier to include data center demand in their annual water supply and demand assessment.

**Analysis:** This bill states that it is the intent of the Legislature that data centers are considered commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) users under the state's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulation. The bill would require urban water suppliers to include data center demand in their annual water supply and demand assessment as part of their annual water shortage contingency plan (WSCP). The assessment ensures that water suppliers are providing a reliable supply of water for their customers, evaluating their water supply status on a regular basis and, in the case of anticipated water shortages, preparing mitigation actions, and it is ultimately included in a water supplier's WSCP.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Watch

### **AB 2739 (Soria): The California Water Affordability and Stabilization Act of 2026**

**Location:** Asm Water, Parks and Wildlife; **Last Amended:** 3/19/26

**Summary:** This bill would establish the Community Water Affordability Program to provide funding in the form of grants to local water suppliers for water system repairs, rehabilitation, and enhancements, water safety and quality, and other local water system infrastructure projects, for the purpose of reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding required for those projects. The bill would require the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to develop and administer the program and develop and adopt program guidelines and project solicitation documents before disbursing grant funds. The bill would also establish the Community Water Affordability Assistance Fund in the State Treasury. The bill would make moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the department for the purposes of the program. The bill is sponsored by Rancho Water District and Irvine Ranch Water District.

**Analysis:** The California Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act proposes a lasting solution by addressing affordability at the household, system, and community levels. The Act advances a sustainable funding solution to support a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program for water while also supporting strategic investments that stabilize water systems and help reduce cost pressures before they are passed on to ratepayers. The Act's proposed funding structure provides predictable, long-term resources without placing new burdens on local governments or water ratepayers. This approach strengthens water planning and enhances statewide resilience while preserving local decision-making. Further, we support the commitment of the sponsors of the Act to create a viable, sustainable funding source that does not include any new taxes or fees.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Support